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13 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
14 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
15 **WESTERN DIVISION**  
16

17 **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE**  
18 **COMMISSION,**

19 Plaintiff,

20 vs.

21 JAMMIN' JAVA CORP., dba MARLEY  
22 COFFEE, SHANE G. WHITTLE,  
23 WAYNE S. P. WEAVER, MICHAEL K.  
SUN, RENE BERLINGER, STEPHEN B.  
24 WHEATLEY, KEVIN P. MILLER,  
25 MOHAMMED A. AL-BARWANI,  
ALEXANDER J. HUNTER, and  
26 THOMAS E. HUNTER,

27 Defendants.  
28

Case No. 2:15-CV-08921 SVW (MRWx)

**PLAINTIFF SECURITIES AND  
EXCHANGE COMMISSION'S  
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF  
MOTIONS IN LIMINE**

Pre-Trial Conference: June 26, 2017  
Time: 3:00 pm  
Hon. Stephen V. Wilson  
Courtroom 10A

1 In support of its Motions in Limine, Plaintiff U.S. Securities and Exchange  
2 Commission (the “SEC” or “Commission”) states as follows:

3 **I. Motion in Limine #1 – Motion for (A) Preclusion Order, Barring**  
4 **Defendant Weaver From Presenting Evidence At Trial and (B) An**  
5 **Adverse Inference Instruction:**

6 Wayne Weaver has refused to: (i) answer the allegations in the SEC’s  
7 Amended Complaint against him; (ii) answer the SEC’s interrogatories; (iii) produce  
8 any documents in response to the SEC’s document requests; (iv) respond to the  
9 SEC’s requests for admission; and (v) testify at a deposition. Instead, Weaver has  
10 invoked the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination at every stage of  
11 this case. For example, in lieu of appearing for his deposition and asserting the Fifth  
12 Amendment, Weaver submitted a declaration stating his intent to assert the Fifth  
13 Amendment in response to all questions posed to him at the deposition, including on  
14 at least twenty-five specific topics listed in his declaration. (SJ Ex. 92, Dkt. #175-47.)  
15 Weaver also asserted the Fifth Amendment in response to 134 requests for admission  
16 propounded by the SEC. (*See* SJ Ex. 9, Dkt. #174-10.)

17 But Weaver has not simply refused to share his knowledge and documents with  
18 the SEC, he has been trying to prevent the SEC from obtaining key information from  
19 other sources, including from the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority  
20 (“FINMA”). Weaver’s own e-mails, which the SEC obtained during discovery from  
21 Rene Berlinger, show that Weaver directed his agents to hide from FINMA (and  
22 ultimately the SEC) the fact that he was the beneficial owner of several entities that  
23 traded Jammin Java stock. In those e-mails, Weaver tells his representatives (1) that  
24 “the main goal” in responding to FINMA’s requests for information is “the release of  
25 as little information as possible but definitely not the release of any information  
26 pertaining to Michael Sun or myself (i.e., Details of the ultimate beneficial owners);”  
27 and (2) “it is Michael Sun (MKS) and my wish that no information is revealed at all  
28 but we know this is very doubtful so the next best thing for us is that our names are

not revealed in any way.” (Summ. J. Stmt. Of Undisp. Fact (“SOF”) ¶¶ 80–81, Dkt. #173; SJ Ex. 14, Dkt. #174-15.)

Having elected to withhold discovery, assert the Fifth Amendment, and engage in affirmative efforts to block the SEC from obtaining relevant information from other sources, Weaver should be barred from presenting evidence at trial. *See Bassett v. City of Burbank*, No. 2:14-cv-01348, 2014 WL 12573395, at \*1–2 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 14, 2014) (Wilson, J.) (granting plaintiff’s motion *in limine* seeking preclusion order because defendant invoked the Fifth Amendment); *SEC v. Interlink Data Network of L.A., Inc.*, Civ. A. No. 93-3073 R., 1993 WL 603274, at \*8 & n.97 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 15, 1993); *SEC v. Benson*, 657 F. Supp. 1122, 1129 (S.D.N.Y. 1987) (“By his initial obstruction of discovery and his subsequent assertion of the privilege, defendant has forfeited the right to offer evidence disputing the plaintiff’s evidence or supporting his own denials”). Where a “party asserts the Fifth Amendment across-the-board in civil litigation to prevent an opponent from obtaining any discovery at all of evidence of the facts at issue and of the position of the party invoking the privilege on those facts, the injustice of allowing that party to put on evidence at a hearing or trial on the same facts is especially manifest.” *Interlink Data Network*, 1993 WL 603274, at \*8 n.97.

So it is here. In his Answer to the Amended Complaint, Weaver asserted sixteen affirmative defenses and requested that the Court treat his Fifth Amendment declaration as a specific denial of the SEC’s allegations. (Dkt. #131.) Yet, he has provided no discovery that would allow the SEC to determine the nature of the defenses or the basis for his denials. That choice has consequences. He should not be allowed to offer affirmative evidence of his own.

In addition, the SEC requests that the jury be instructed that it may draw an adverse inference against Weaver based on his assertion of the Fifth Amendment. As the Ninth Circuit has held, “[p]arties are free to invoke the Fifth Amendment in civil cases, but the court is equally free to draw adverse inferences from their failure of proof.” *SEC v. Colello*, 139 F.3d 674, 677 (9th Cir. 1998); *SEC v. Strategic Global Inv., Inc.*, No. 16-

1 cv-514, 2017 WL 1387187, at \*10–11 (S.D. Cal. Apr. 17, 2017) (drawing adverse  
 2 inference that defendants acted with scienter); *Bassett*, 2014 WL 12573395, at \*1  
 3 (granting plaintiff’s request for adverse inference instruction). Since Weaver has refused  
 4 to testify or produce evidence on any issue in this case—and there is substantial  
 5 independent evidence supporting Weaver’s active involvement in the scheme alleged by  
 6 the SEC—an adverse inference instruction is warranted.<sup>1</sup>

## 7 **II. Motion in Limine #2 – Motion to Admit Summary Testimony.**

8 At trial, the SEC intends to offer the testimony of SEC Accountant R. Kevin  
 9 Barrett who was disclosed to Weaver as a summary witness. As he did in support of  
 10 the SEC’s pending summary judgment motion, Mr. Barrett will summarize and  
 11 explain voluminous financial records produced by banks and brokerage firms in  
 12 multiple jurisdictions, which records detail hundreds of individual financial  
 13 transactions that Weaver and his cohorts executed through a network of offshore shell  
 14 entities over a six-month period. Mr. Barrett’s summary testimony will streamline the  
 15 presentation of evidence at trial and will assist the jury in understanding the complex  
 16 web of transactions in this case.

17 The SEC must meet two requirements for the admission of Mr. Barrett’s  
 18 summary testimony. First, under Rule 1006 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, the  
 19 SEC must “ma[k]e the [underlying documents] available for examination or copying,  
 20 or both, at a reasonable time and place.” The SEC has done so. All of the documents  
 21 that Mr. Barrett used in his summary calculations have been produced to Weaver in  
 22 this litigation (in fully searchable format) or, in a few cases, are publicly available.

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23  
 24  
 25 <sup>1</sup> Ordinarily, Weaver’s invocation of the Fifth Amendment could be presented to the jury by placing  
 26 him on the stand to respond to specific questions. But, Weaver’s counsel has informed counsel for  
 27 the SEC that it is unlikely Weaver will travel to the United States to attend trial. The SEC, therefore,  
 28 respectfully requests that—if Weaver fails to attend trial—his invocation be evidenced through his  
 response to the SEC’s Requests to Admit, (SJ Ex. 9, Dkt. #174-10), and through his July 11, 2016  
 Declaration, in which he asserted his Fifth Amendment privilege both generally and in connection  
 with specified topics in this litigation, (SJ Ex. 92, Dkt. #175-47).

1 Mr. Barrett submitted a sworn declaration, which was attached to the SEC's  
 2 motion for summary judgment, describing the documents he used for his calculations  
 3 (SJ Ex. 1, Dkt. #174-1.) He identified (a) the specific entities involved, (SJ Ex. 1 at  
 4 Exhibits B(i) and B(ii), Dkt. #174-2); (b) the productions reviewed, (*id.* at ¶ 5); (c)  
 5 the types of documents reviewed—"trading records, transfer records, account  
 6 statements, account opening documents, cash receipt and disbursement records . . .  
 7 and order and execution files," (*id.*); (d) the name of each custodial bank and broker  
 8 for each entity; and (e) each relevant transaction by date, amount, and entity, (*id.* at  
 9 exs. C and F.) In support of its reply brief, the SEC went even further, and provided a  
 10 61-page chart that identified (1) each category of documents that Mr. Barrett used;  
 11 and (2) the production(s) in which Weaver could find the documents. (SJ Reply Ex.  
 12 1, Dkt. #187-1.) In short, Weaver has had full access to the documents underlying  
 13 Mr. Barrett's calculations.<sup>2</sup>

14 Second, the underlying documents must be admissible. They are. Weaver's  
 15 evidentiary objections to date have been limited to the issue of authenticity. In the  
 16 chart submitted with its reply brief, the SEC identified *prima facie* grounds for  
 17 authenticating each category of documents that Mr. Barrett used for his declaration.  
 18 (SJ Reply Ex. 1, Dkt. #187-1.) These bases satisfy the standard under Rule 901(a) of  
 19 the Federal Rules of Evidence, which requires only that "sufficient proof [be]  
 20 introduced so that a reasonable juror could find in favor of authenticity or  
 21 identification." *MGM Studios, Inc. v. Grokster, Ltd.*, 454 F. Supp. 2d 966, 972 (C.D.

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22  
 23  
 24 <sup>2</sup> Indeed, the available evidence reflects that the relevant account records have always been under  
 25 Weaver's control. He was the sole beneficial owner of several of the entities involved, (*e.g.*, SOF ¶  
 26 2), he has admitted in an e-mail that he controlled trading out of several of those entities, (SJ Ex.  
 27 14), he communicated directly with the entities' bankers, brokers and account managers, (*see e.g.*,  
 28 SJ Ex. 2 at 91–96, Dkt. #174-2; SJ Ex. 81, Dkt. #175-36; SJ Ex. 84, Dkt. #175-39), and he has not  
 disputed the testimony of Berlinger, Sun, Wheatley and Al-Barwani who each confirm that they  
 acted at Wayne Weaver's direction (*e.g.*, SOF ¶¶ 86, 88-92, 94-95). The SEC had to obtain the  
 records from other sources around the globe only because Weaver pled the Fifth and withheld his  
 documents.

1 Cal. 2006) (*quoting United States v. Tank*, 200 F.3d 627, 630 (9th Cir. 2000)). For  
2 example<sup>3</sup>:

3 (1) Most of the documents are standard account statements, trading records,  
4 and other business records maintained in the ordinary course of business by the banks  
5 and brokerage firms Weaver and his co-defendants used to trade Jammin Java stock  
6 and transfer sale proceeds. The Swiss and English banks and brokerage firms  
7 submitted business records certifications establishing the admissibility of their  
8 business records under Rules 803(6) and 901(12) of the Federal Rules of Evidence,  
9 (*e.g.*, SJ Reply Exs. 4–9, Dkt. #187-4–187-9). *See United States v. Miller*, 830 F.2d  
10 1073, 1077 (9th Cir. 1987) (“Banks depend on keeping accurate records and  
11 although, as we all know, they err occasionally, their records are among the most  
12 common type of business records routinely used in our courts.”);

13 (2) Many of these same financial records were independently authenticated by  
14 witnesses in depositions in this case or (as in the case of Jammin Java’s transfer agent  
15 records) in sworn testimony taken during the underlying investigation, (*e.g.*, SJ Reply  
16 Ex. 1 at 1–21, Dkt. #187-1);

17 (3) In response to formal requests submitted by the SEC, multiple foreign  
18 government securities regulators obtained the financial records at issue directly from  
19 the banks and brokerage firms under their respective jurisdictions and then produced  
20 copies of those documents to the SEC (*see, e.g., Melridge, Inc. v. Heublein*, 125 B.R.  
21 825, 829–830 (D. Or. 1991) (receipt of documents by Department of Justice in  
22 response to formal treaty request, along with other circumstantial indicia of  
23 authenticity “establish strong circumstantial evidence sufficient to constitute a *prima*  
24 *facie* showing of the authenticity of” Swiss police reports and bank records));

25 (4) Copies of many of those same financial records also were produced to the  
26

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27 <sup>3</sup> Although Weaver’s objections have been limited to authenticity, as noted below, the vast majority  
28 of the financial records at issue are supported by business records certifications, which establish  
their admissibility pursuant to Rules 803(6) and 901(11) or (12) of the Federal Rules of Evidence.



1 SEC in discovery by Weaver's co-Defendant nominees (Sun, Berlinger, Wheatley,  
2 and Al-Barwani) (*see, e.g., MGM Studios*, 454 F. Supp. 2d at 972–73 (finding that  
3 documents met the authenticity standard because they were produced by non-party  
4 P.R. firm and venture capital firm who were “business partners” of the defendant));  
5 and

6 (5) Although he is in the position to authenticate his own account records,  
7 Weaver has decided to remain silent—a decision which allows the Court to draw an  
8 adverse inference.

9 Notably, Weaver has never objected to the substance of Mr. Barrett's  
10 calculations. In fact, Weaver never tried to depose Mr. Barrett, did not propound any  
11 discovery requests on the SEC, has never contested the calculations in Mr. Barrett's  
12 schedules, has never challenged the propriety of such summary testimony, and has  
13 never disclosed any summary calculations of his own. The absence of any specific  
14 objection by Weaver contesting the actual genuineness or accuracy of the records  
15 weighs in favor of admitting them. *See, e.g., McMaster v. M.E. Spearman*, No. 1:10-  
16 cv-01407, 2014 WL 4418104, \*3 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 5, 2014) (overruling defendant's  
17 “bare” evidentiary objection at summary judgment where defendant had not  
18 “genuinely disputed” authenticity and the documents, on their face, appeared to be  
19 genuine); *Burch v. Regents of Univ. of Cal.*, 433 F. Supp. 2d 1110, 1120, 1124 (E.D.  
20 Cal. 2006) (overruling authenticity objections, holding that “because defendants do  
21 not actually dispute the authenticity of these documents, the court is confident  
22 plaintiff *would* be able to authenticate them at trial, which is all that Rule 56(e)  
23 demands” and noting that “[w]hether the authentication requirement should be  
24 applied to bar evidence when its authenticity is not actually disputed, is . . .  
25 questionable”).

26 In sum, the SEC has met the requirements of Rule 1006 of the Federal Rules of  
27 Evidence. It therefore respectfully requests that the Court allow it to present the  
28 summary testimony of Mr. Barrett at trial.

**III. Motion in Limine #3 – Motion for Permission to Ask Leading Questions to Defendants Sun and Al-Barwani.**

It is uncertain at this point whether Weaver’s former co-Defendants—Michael Sun and Mohammed Al-Barwani—will appear in person as witnesses at trial. They both reside in foreign countries—Sun in the Bailiwick of Jersey and Al-Barwani in Oman. If they do not attend, the SEC intends to present excerpts of their videotaped depositions to the jury. However, if Sun and Al-Barwani appear in person, the SEC respectfully requests that the Court grant the SEC leave to ask leading questions to those witnesses on direct examination.

Rule 611(c) of the Federal Rules of Evidence provides that a district court “[o]rdinarily . . . should allow leading questions . . . when a party calls a hostile witness, an adverse party, or a witness identified with an adverse party.” Before Rule 611(c) was adopted, counsel could not use leading questions until it had “shown that the witness was actually hostile or was an adverse party, officer, director or managing agent of such adverse party.” *Haney v. Mizell Mem’l Hosp.*, 744 F.2d 1467, 1477 (11th Cir. 1984). These restrictions, however, were deemed to be an “unduly narrow concept of those who may safely be regarded as hostile without further demonstration.” *Ellis v. City of Chi.*, 667 F.2d 606, 612 (7th Cir. 1981) (quoting the advisory committee’s comment to Fed. R. Evid. 611(c)). Accordingly, Rule 611(c), and particularly its addition of the phrase “witness identified with an adverse party,” was written and adopted in order to expand the category of individuals that could be asked leading questions on direct examination. Fed. R. Evid. 611 advisory committee’s note (1972); *see Haney*, 744 F.2d at 1477–79 (stating that Rule 611(c) “significantly enlarged” the variety of witnesses that could be examined using leading questions but without having to demonstrate actual hostility).

Leading questions on direct examination generally are prohibited because of the “risk of improper suggestion inherent in examining” witnesses that are friendly. *Ellis*, 667 F.2d at 612. Not surprisingly, the “risks of suggestion are reduced where



1 the witness has an interest in promoting a version of the facts contrary to that  
2 suggested.” Charles A. Wright and Victor J. Gold, 28 *Fed. Prac. & Proc. Evid.* §  
3 6168 (2013). “[W]itness identified with an adverse party” within the meaning of Rule  
4 611(c) thus should be interpreted broadly to include “in general, an employee, agent,  
5 friend or relative of an adverse party.” *Ratliff v. City of Chi.*, No. 10-c-739, 2012 WL  
6 7993412, at \*1 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 20, 2012); *United States v. McLaughlin*, No. 95-cr-  
7 0113, 1998 WL 966014, at \*1 (E.D. Pa. Nov. 19, 1998) (“[t]he term ‘witness  
8 identified with an adverse party’ is intended to apply broadly to an identification  
9 based upon employment by the party or by virtue of a demonstrated connection to an  
10 opposing party” (internal citations omitted)).

11 Courts accordingly have allowed leading questions when witnesses share a  
12 current or former employment or agency relationship with a party. In *United States v.*  
13 *McLaughlin*, the government’s counsel was allowed to ask leading questions during  
14 the examination of the accountant that had prepared the defendant’s tax returns. The  
15 Court noted that the accountant and the defendant had “worked together” for a  
16 number of years on matters including but not limited to the tax returns at issue.  
17 *McLaughlin*, 1998 WL 966014, at \*1. The Court held that although the defendant and  
18 witness might not be “in cahoots, they were, at the very least, cohorts.” *Id.* This same  
19 rationale was recognized in *Stahl v. Sun Microsystems, Inc.*, 775 F. Supp. 1397 (D.  
20 Colo. 1991), in which the court allowed the plaintiff in an employment discrimination  
21 case to use leading questions during the direct examination of a former employee.  
22 The court held that the witness remained “clearly identified” with the defendant, even  
23 though she was not a current employee, both because of that employment and an  
24 ongoing relationship with her former boss, who attended the trial on behalf of the  
25 defendant. *Id.* at 1398. The justification for treating former employees and agents as  
26 witnesses “identified with an adverse party” is even stronger when, as here, the  
27 witnesses are participants in the events giving rise to the litigation. *See McLaughlin*,  
28 1998 WL 966014, at \*2 (the witness in question had prepared the tax returns at issue

1 in the case for the defendant and his corporation).

2 Here, Defendants Sun and Al-Barwani have testified that they served as  
3 Weaver's nominees in 2010 and 2011; they were paid by Weaver to act on his behalf.  
4 (*See* SOF ¶¶ 87–95.) More significantly, they acted as Weaver's nominees in relation  
5 to the very facts underlying this case. Weaver paid them to relay instructions  
6 regarding the purchase and sale of Jammin Java stock and the distribution of proceeds  
7 from those sales. (*See id.*) Weaver has not refuted that testimony. While Sun and Al-  
8 Barwani may no longer be in Weaver's employ, and have implicated Weaver in  
9 misconduct, they (a) have been "identified with the Defendant;" (b) were adverse to  
10 the SEC in this litigation; and (c) unlike two of their fellow defendants, did not enter  
11 into cooperation agreements with the SEC. Consequently, the "risk of suggestion" is  
12 not present and the SEC respectfully requests that it be allowed to ask leading  
13 questions on direct examination of Sun and Al-Barwani.

14 **IV. Motion in Limine #4 – Motion to Admit Evidence that Weaver's co-**  
15 **Defendants Have Asserted Their Fifth Amendment Rights and to Allow**  
16 **A Corresponding Adverse Inference Against Weaver.**

17 Wayne Weaver did not act alone when he participated in the effort to  
18 manipulate the stock of Jammin Java. He had lots of help. In addition to Weaver, the  
19 SEC sued eight other individuals in connection with the "pump and dump" scheme.  
20 Some have testified about their role and how Weaver directed them to buy and sell  
21 Jammin Java stock. (*e.g.*, SOF ¶¶ 86-95, Dkt. #173.) But two of Weaver's co-  
22 Defendants, Shane Whittle and Kevin Miller, adopted Weaver's strategy and asserted  
23 their Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination. The SEC respectfully  
24 requests that the Court (1) allow the SEC to introduce evidence that Whittle and  
25 Miller, both of whom reside in foreign countries, have asserted the Fifth Amendment;  
26 and (2) allow the jury to draw an adverse inference against Weaver based on the Fifth  
27 Amendment assertions of his co-Defendants.  
28

1 In civil cases, courts retain broad discretion both to admit evidence of a  
2 witness's invocation of the Fifth Amendment and to allow the jury to draw an adverse  
3 inference against a defendant based on a co-defendant's or a non-party witness's Fifth  
4 Amendment assertion. *See, e.g., Schoenmann v. Salevouris*, No. 3:15-cv-05193, 2016  
5 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 147089, at \*7–9 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 24, 2016) (“Plaintiff should thus  
6 be permitted to introduce evidence of [defendant] Lembi's prior invocation of the  
7 Fifth Amendment and/or call Lembi at trial so the jury can hear him invoke the Fifth  
8 Amendment. Otherwise, the jury may be left to wonder why Plaintiff did not call  
9 Lembi to establish facts of the case.”); *LiButti v. United States*, 107 F.3d 110, 120–25  
10 (2d Cir. 1997) (reversing and remanding for further proceedings, holding that non-  
11 party's invocation of the Fifth Amendment was admissible and that a corresponding  
12 adverse inference against the defendant was permissible); *Willingham v. County of*  
13 *Albany*, 593 F. Supp. 2d 446, 452–53 (N.D.N.Y. 2006) (permitting adverse inference  
14 to be drawn against one defendant based on his co-defendant's invocation of the Fifth  
15 Amendment because their interests were “intertwined”); *United States v. Custer*  
16 *Battles, LLC*, 415 F. Supp. 2d 628, 634–36 (E.D. Va. 2006)(finding that one  
17 defendant's assertion of the Fifth Amendment privilege was admissible and supported  
18 a jury instruction allowing an adverse inference against his co-defendants).

19 In deciding whether to allow an adverse inference against a defendant based on  
20 another witness's assertion of the Fifth Amendment privilege, the Second Circuit in  
21 *LiButti* articulated several non-exclusive factors to consider, including (1) the  
22 relationship between the parties; (2) whether the defendant exercised any control or  
23 influence over the witness asserting the Fifth Amendment; (3) whether the interests of  
24 the party and witness overlap; and (4) whether the witness was a “key figure” in the  
25 litigation. *See LiButti*, 107 F.3d at 123–24. In balancing those factors, the *LiButti*  
26 court concluded that “the overarching concern is fundamentally whether the adverse  
27 inference is trustworthy under all of the circumstances and will advance the search  
28 for truth.” *LiButti*, 107 F.3d at 124.

1 Each of those factors supports an adverse inference in this instance. Both  
2 Whittle and Miller worked closely with Weaver in conducting the fraudulent scheme.  
3 As shown in detail in support of the SEC's motion for summary judgment, Whittle  
4 was the principal source of Jammin Java stock for Weaver's team. (SOF ¶¶ 39–51,  
5 63–64.) Between November 22 and December 27, 2010, Whittle—Jammin Java's de  
6 facto CEO—funneled more than 16.3 million Jammin Java shares (nearly 24% of all  
7 outstanding shares) to entities owned by Weaver, Sun, Miller, and Wheatley. (*Id.* at ¶  
8 51-52.)

9 Although Weaver and Whittle have refused to testify or respond to any of the  
10 SEC's discovery requests, the other evidence in this case strongly suggests that they  
11 worked hand-in-hand during the fraud. They both used offshore shell entities  
12 incorporated in the same jurisdictions; they used the same nominee officers to operate  
13 those companies; and they opened accounts at the same Swiss banks and the same  
14 Panamanian broker. (SOF ¶¶ 2, 39–44; SJ Ex. 1 at Ex. B(i), B(ii), Dkt. #174-2.)  
15 Whittle signed Share Purchase Agreements transmitting shares at almost no cost to  
16 entities owned by Weaver. (SOF ¶¶ 52.) And, when Weaver's illegal stock sales were  
17 complete, he arranged for \$2.5 million to be transmitted to Whittle's company  
18 (Jammin Java) under the guise of the Straight Path agreement. (*Id.* at ¶¶ 73–77.)

19 Moreover, Miller's shell companies bought and sold Jammin Java stock at  
20 Weaver's direction. For example, Weaver (a) directed his nominee Rene Berlinger to  
21 send a letter on Las Colinas letterhead (the content of which Weaver drafted) to  
22 Jammin Java's transfer agent regarding the transfer of 3.3 million shares of Jammin  
23 Java stock into Miller's Las Colinas entity, (SJ Ex. 91, Dkt. #175-46); (b) instructed  
24 Berlinger to buy Jammin Java stock out of that entity, (SOF ¶ 96(b)); and (c) placed  
25 orders to sell Jammin Java stock out of Rahela (another Miller entity), (*e.g.*, SOF ¶  
26 96(a)). In addition, Miller was the nominal owner of Chilli Capital, which Berlinger  
27 created at Weaver's direction and which was used to funnel \$2.38 million to Jammin  
28 Java under Weaver's sham Straight Path agreement. (*Id.* at ¶¶ 73–77.) That \$2.38

1 million came from Miller's Las Colinas, which sold millions of Jammin Java shares  
2 that it previously obtained from Whittle's entity (Tyrone) and from nominees acting  
3 at Whittle's direction. (*Id.* ¶ 74.)

4 In sum, the interests of Weaver, Whittle, and Miller were intertwined. They  
5 worked together in the same scheme, sharing and transferring stock and sales  
6 proceeds among their various shell entities. But, rather than point the finger at each  
7 other, they presented a united front—each refused to provide any discovery and  
8 refused to answer any questions. And, Whittle and Miller were undeniably key  
9 figures in this litigation: Whittle provided the shares and Miller provided a conduit  
10 for the subsequent sales.

11 All of the *Libutti* factors weigh strongly in favor of both permitting the SEC to  
12 introduce evidence of Whittle's and Miller's assertions of the Fifth Amendment and  
13 permitting the jury to draw an adverse inference against Weaver from those  
14 assertions. No doubt, the assertion of the Fifth Amendment by Weaver's co-  
15 Defendants may be harmful to Weaver's case. But it is not unduly prejudicial on the  
16 facts present here. As courts have pointed out in similar circumstances: "such  
17 evidence is not prejudicial in the sense of being inflammatory, but, rather is  
18 prejudicial in the sense of giving support to a party's position, *i.e.*, it is damning."  
19 *Custer Battles*, 415 F. Supp. 2d at 636 (*quoting Brink's, Inc. v. City of N.Y.*, 539  
20 F.Supp. 1139, 1142 (S.D.N.Y. 1982); *United States ex rel. Bilokumsky v. Tod*, 263  
21 U.S. 149, 153–54 (1923) ("Silence is often evidence of the most persuasive  
22 character.")). Here, the silence of Weaver's co-Defendants concerning their  
23 involvement in the pump-and-dump scheme speaks volumes.

1 The SEC respectfully requests that Whittle's and Miller's declarations  
2 asserting the Fifth Amendment privilege be admitted and that the jury be instructed  
3 that they may draw an adverse inference against Weaver based on his former co-  
4 Defendants' refusals to testify.

5 Dated: May 26, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

6 /s/Peter Senechalle

7 Peter Senechalle

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12  
13  
14 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

15  
16 Peter Senechalle hereby certifies that he caused the foregoing document to be  
17 filed through the Court's CM/ECF system on May 26, 2017, which automatically  
18 sends an electronic copy of the document to all counsel of record.

19 /s/ Peter Senechalle